

REMARKS

Claims 19-38 are pending in this application; claims 19, 20, and 22-37 have been withdrawn from consideration. By the Office Action, claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. By this Amendment, claims 20, 21, 23 and 33 are amended to further clarify the subject matter being claimed, and claim 38 has been added. Support for the amendment to claim 21 may be found, for example, on page 9, lines 5-6 of the present specification. Support for newly-added claim 38 may be found, for example, on page 4, line 11 to page 5, line 6, of the present specification. Thus, no new matter is added by the above amendments. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kaburagi et al. (JP Publication No. 2000-346946, hereinafter "Kaburagi"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection, asserting that Kaburagi fails to disclose all of the elements of claim 21.

Initially, Applicant notes that claim 21 recites "a polymer compound having a hydroxyl group and at least one group selected from a halogen group and an acetal group." The Office Action appears to relate the claimed polymer compound in claim 21 to the hydrophilic compound disclosed in Kaburagi. Although Kaburagi discloses a hydrophilic compound that may be a polyvinyl alcohol, Kaburagi does not teach that this hydrophilic compound includes an "acetal group" or a "halogen radical," as asserted in the Office Action (*see* page 3 of the Office Action; and paragraphs [0019] and [0020] of Kaburagi). Rather, the cited section of Kaburagi teaches that the "electron donor organic compound of coloration nature" (rather than the hydrophilic compound disclosed in Kaburagi) may include a "halogen radical" (*see* paragraph [0020] of Kaburagi). Thus, Kaburagi does not disclose the claimed polymer compound of claim 21.

Furthermore, claim 21 recites "a medium consisting of 50 to 95 parts by weight of the solvent and 5 to 50 parts by weight of a polymer compound." Unlike the claimed medium, the medium disclosed in Kaburagi is an "ink vehicle" that contains PAS-800 ink medium, which does not consist of a solvent and the claimed polymer compound (*see* paragraphs [0021] and [0028] of Kaburagi). Therefore, Kaburagi fails to disclose the claimed medium, recited in claim 21.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that Kaburagi fails to disclose each and every element of claim 21, as required for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Kaburagi thus does not anticipate claim 21. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that Kaburagi fails to disclose or appreciate the advantages stemming from the claimed combination of elements recited in claim 21. For example, the claimed composition (recited in claim 21) achieves sensitive color change for a wide range of radiation doses, ranging from 0.05 Gy to 25,000 Gy – including even extremely low radiation dose ranges, such as 0.05 Gy to 5 Gy (*see* page 18, lines 17-24 of the present specification). However, the composition disclosed in Kaburagi is only effective for radiation doses ranging from 5 Gy to 25,000 Gy (*see* paragraph [0023] of Kaburagi). Therefore, the indicator sheet in Kaburagi is ineffective or exhibits only low sensitivity in the radiation dosage range from 0.05 Gy to 5 Gy, unlike the claimed composition. Therefore, Applicant submits that the teachings of Kaburagi would not have rendered claim 21 obvious because Kaburagi fails to disclose all of the elements of claim 21 and the advantages stemming therefrom.

II. New Claim

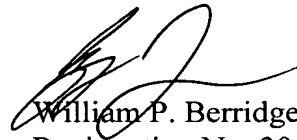
Applicant further submits that newly added claim 38, which depends from independent claim 21, recites allowable subject matter, and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate allowance of newly added claim 38.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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